

concerns with several key provisions, which is why it is my hope that if the Senate passes its own version of this legislation, these troubled provisions could be eliminated in a conference between both chambers. If not, then I reserve the right to vote no on any vote on final passage.

RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE
FIND STEPHEN K. BANNON IN
CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of holding Steve Bannon in contempt of Congress for refusing to answer a Congressional subpoena and in support of truth, transparency, and the rule of law.

January 6 was one of the most heinous attacks on American democracy that our country has ever seen. We have mountains of evidence that these rioters, encouraged by and organized by some of our country's highest officials, intended to overthrow our democracy at the behest of Donald Trump.

We must get to the bottom of what happened, not only to hold these insurrectionists accountable, but to prevent something like this from ever happening again.

Steve Bannon clearly had inside knowledge of what was going to happen that day. He even said on January 5 that "all hell was going to break loose" on January 6. He has information that must be shared.

The January 6 commission is a bipartisan effort to get the truth.

This goes beyond party politics—this is about the safety and security of our democracy.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting to hold Steve Bannon in contempt for his refusal to comply with the Committee's subpoena. Vote for yes.

REMEMBERING MIMI LEVIN
LIEBER

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my good friend Mimi Levin Lieber, a beloved public servant and leader in early childhood education.

Mimi devoted her life to her mission of making literacy a right of all children, a passion that led her to launch Literacy Inc. (LINC), an organization in my district dedicated to providing children with a strong foundation of literacy early in life. Through her organization, Mimi was able to touch the lives of so many New Yorkers by taking an innovative community-based approach to learning that addressed the systemic inequalities in our education system.

Mimi believed that through reading, everything becomes possible. This conviction served her well while attending the University of Chicago for her Bachelor's and Master of

Arts Degrees and, later, training in London to become a pioneer in qualitative research. After completing a fellowship at Harvard's Graduate School for Education, she met her husband for life, Charles Lieber. Charles was a well-traveled, multi-lingual native of the Netherlands who fled the Nazi occupation of Belgium in 1940. Forty years later, he would go on to acquire the Hebrew Publishing Company, the oldest American publisher of Judaica.

After moving to New York in 1960, she and Charles raised four children on the Upper West Side. Mimi cherished being a mother and believed raising children was one of the most important, yet undervalued, roles in life. Mimi grew up in a cohesive Jewish community in Detroit, but she quickly became a true New Yorker who looked out for everyone in her community. She served on the synagogue board, Hebrew school board, the Jewish Board of Guardians, and Community Planning Board 7. While doing all this, Mimi, a trained sociologist, also founded Lieber Attitude Research which became one of the first firms to employ focus groups to help companies understand client thinking.

This public service and her sociology background led me to nominate her to the New York State Board of Regents, where she served New York students for 15 years. While on the board, she successfully lobbied politicians around the state to make critical investments necessary to turn young children in the five boroughs into learners for life. During her service, she became a breast cancer survivor and spoke openly about her illness when many would not. Mimi never viewed public service as a sacrifice; she believed in the power of community and viewed the ability to serve others as a privilege. One of her sons, Janno Lieber, continued her tradition of public service and currently serves as Acting Chair and CEO of New York's MTA. In her later years, she spent much of her time at her family's countryside retreat in Spencertown, New York and continued to serve on the board of LINC.

Her legacy reminds us that we must support and invest in our children's education from the earliest years, when it matters the most, and that universal literacy is critical to sustaining a healthy democracy. Mimi will truly be missed, and she has left her imprint on the thousands of readers she inspired through her advocacy. Mimi is survived by her children, grandchildren, and members of her LINC family. May her memory be a blessing.

NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, and to pay tribute to the numerous individuals and their families across our country living with this condition.

Spina Bifida is the nation's most common, permanently disabling, birth defect compatible with life. According to the March of Dimes, about 1,645 babies are born with this condition in the United States each year, with its

prevalence being highest in the Hispanic population. Known as a neural tube defect, Spina Bifida stems from a hole in the spinal cord that occurs when the spinal column fails to close properly during development in the womb. As a result, this condition impacts virtually every major organ system in the body. Children born with Spina Bifida typically undergo dozens of surgeries before they become adults. Adults living with Spina Bifida face a myriad of physical and mental health conditions, as well as other challenges, such as unemployment and limited access to quality primary and specialty care.

Over the last three decades we have made significant strides in preventing this birth defect and managing the care of those born with this condition. In response to research showing the incidence of Spina Bifida could be reduced by up to 70 percent with the addition of folic acid in a woman's diet, the United States Public Health Service recommended that all women of childbearing years should take 400 micrograms of folic acid daily to prevent having a pregnancy affected by a neural tube defect. Based on this recommendation, I introduced the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act, which was passed into law as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000. This Act authorized a program within CDC to provide professional and public education for folic acid awareness.

In 1998, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration required that folic acid be added to enriched grain products such as bread, pasta, rice, and cereal to increase the likelihood that women would have sufficient folic acid in their diet before becoming pregnant. And in 2016, after years of advocacy with the FDA and the corn masa industry, folic acid fortification of corn masa flour was finally begun to target Hispanic communities that consume more corn masa products than grains. But there is still much work to be done to ensure adequate consumption of this critical nutrient that can neural tube defects.

There are currently an estimated 166,000 individuals in the United States living with Spina Bifida, approximately 65 of whom are adults. This disease is now witnessing its first generation of adults, an incredible milestone, considering that the original designation of Spina Bifida as a childhood condition meant most children born with this condition did not experience life beyond youth. Today, a generation of adults living with Spina Bifida, some of whom are 65 years and older, is an achievement worth celebrating. But unfortunately, there remain many unmet needs and additional health challenges affecting this medically fragile population.

As individuals develop, their clinical needs change, as should the type of care, and often the type of medical professional they see for that care. One challenge is that while we have a coordinated system of care designed to treat children with Spina Bifida in the United States, there is no equivalent for adults. Thus, the "graduating child" enters a very fractured medical system where individuals struggle to find physicians willing to provide treatment. Unfortunately, many of these physicians lack basic knowledge of this complex condition, and thousands of young to middle-aged adults are left with few options other than to seek care in the emergency room—or continue to see their pediatric care team at Spina Bifida Centers, which are designed for children.